The Marks of a Tier

THE MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN

Matt.26:73

"And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter,'Surely, thou a art also one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee.'"

INTRO. Text from Peter's denial of Jesus. How may one know that he is himself a follower of Christ? How may other people know it? These two questions concern us all.

Early discipleship was not wrapt in mystery or made dependent upon a mystic experience as it was later made to be.

I. How may a man know that he is a Christian? Even as the first followers of Christ knew it.

1. They believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of the world
They trusted him as their personal savior and master.
They endeavored to obey his commands and exemplify his spirit.
They relied on his presence, direction and help for all their needs.
They had no theologies or creeds.
But they believed!

2. They gave themselves to Jesus Chrsit, in sincere faith.
They relied on Christ for forgiveness, for purification, for strength and guidance, for protection, for victory over sin and death.

3. Then, they endeavored to serve Christ, In the midst of temptations and persecutions, they tried to meet with Jesus' approval in everything they did.

Are you, or are you not, believing, trusting, and trying to serve Jesus Christ? Your honest answer will tell you whether you are a Xn or no

II. But how do others find out that you are a Xn?

1. A true follower of Christ will say so.
"Thy speech betrayeth thee"
"Out of the abundance of the heart" the mouth speaks."
"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart, thou shalt be saved."
Making all due allowance for personal modesty, timidity, reserve, etc, one who is reall a Xn ought not to be either afraid or ashamed to declare it before men, when it is opportune for him to do so. Not to do so is denial as Peter denied.

2. Then there is the Church of Christ.
Founded by Christ himself. It grew, gradually but not accidentally.
Not a faultless body. Judas was a member. Ananias and Sapphira were members. The Church contains many such today, no doubt.
Nevertheless the Church is a divine institution, intended to embrace all who believe and follow and serve Jesus Christ.
I dont say that you have to be a member of the church in order to be a Xn, but I do say that a real Xn will deem it his privelege and his duty to belong to the Church.

3. Another mark of a Xn is his endeavor to obey the teachings of Christ and illu strate the Spirit of the Master in his daily life,
This is the manifestaion of one's reality to his religion.

4. Another mark is a Xn's eagerness to serve X. to wokk for his kingdom, to bring others to a saving knowledge of the Gospel.

(over)

False Witnessing

A man ~~run~~ in auto run down at R.R. X.
Old signal man called into court
Severely x-examined but stuck to
his story that he had waved his
lantern frantically, but to no
avail. Supt. of Road called
him to his office "You did very well
in court, Tom. At first I tho't you were
going to waver."
"No sir," replied Tom, "but I was afraid
that old lawyer was going to ask me if
my lantern was lit!"
Many Xns are just waving their
lanterns with no light in them,
& consequently the tragedies in
life.

Known as Xns.
young man married & settled in
new home. His father visited the
newly wed. and after inspecting the new
home, said, "Son, this is all very lovely
but one going from room to room wouldn't
know whether you belonged to God or to
the devil!"
The son admitted it, & saw to it that
every room would henceforth have
something in it to indicate that they
were Xns who belonged to God!